WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED AND UNSTARRED QUESTIONS SET FOR THE 16TH NOVEMBER, 2007

Khurda-Bolangir Rail Line

*21. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the inordinate delay in construction of Khurda-Bolangir rail link, sanctioned in 1994-95, has triggered severe public resentment in Orissa State;

(b) whether the MPs and MLAs of the area have impressed upon him for allotment of adequate funds for completion of this project within a time-bound period; and

(c) if so, what is the status of this project, indicating the time-frame within which it would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) As per the information available, on such public resentment has come to the notice of the Government.

(b) Yes, Sir. Demands have been received from State Government of Orissa and elected representatives in this regard.

(c) Land acquisition has been taken up and so far, about 900 acres out of 4951 acres has been acquired. Earthwork, bridges etc. taken up from km. 0 to 36. An expenditure of Rs. 67.83 crore was incurred upto 31.03.2007 and an outlay of Rs. 20 crore has been provided for 2007-08. No target date for completion has been fixed yet. The work is being progressed as per the availability of resources.

Halting of Trains at Yerraguntla Station

*22. SHRI NANDIYELLAIAH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested his Ministry to provide haltage of Kachiguda-Chennai Egmore Express, Nizamuddin-Tirupathi Sampark Express and Mumbai-Madurai Lokmanya Tilak Express at Yerraguntla railway station; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, in response to the requests received from the Government and the Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh, stoppage of 6751/6752 Kacheguda-Chennai Egmore Express at Yerraguntla has been provided from 01.10.2007 on an experimental basis for six months. However, stoppages of 2707/2708 Nizamuddin-Tirupati Andhra Pradesh Samapark Kranti Express and 1043/1044 Madurai Lokmanya Tilak(T) Express at Yerraguntla station as requested have been examined and not found feasible at present, due to lack of commercial justification.

Vacancies in railways

*23. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the railways is not filling up vacancies in various categories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, the vacancies filled during the last three years; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to fill all the vacancies at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b)Does not arise.

(c) 98,343 (ninety eight thousand three hundred forty three) vacancies were filled up on the railways during last three years.

(d)Occurrence and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. While a few vacancies are likely to exist in this continuous process at any point of time, the policy of the Government is to fill up the vacancies promptly as per procedure. General Managers are empowered to assess the requirement and get the same filled up from time to time by placing indents on Railway Recruitment Boards (RRBs) in case of Group 'C categories. For Group 'D' requirement and recruitment is done by Railways themselves. The vacancies to be filled up have to be given wide publicity in conformity with the Constitutional provisions and guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel & Training pursuant to directive of Hon'ble Supreme Court of India.

Lack of facilities in the health centres in Orissa

*24. SHRI B. J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHINDAR:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a major chunk of Government health centres in the country lacks bare minimum facilities, as per details compiled by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof, *inter-alia* indicating the status of Orissa;

(c) whether Government are aware that the cash-strapped/backward Orissa does not have sufficient resources to develop infrastructure in the health-care sector; and

(d) if so, what is the action plan of the Centre to help this State both financially and physically to upgrade its health-care system?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILIY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMA DOSS): (a) and (b) Number of Sub-centres with ANMs quarter in the country varies from 0-100% with figure of 43% for the State of Orissa. Number of Sub-centres with ANMs living in Sub-centre quarters also varies widely with 100% ANMs living in the quarter in the State of Orissa. Number of Sub-centres without regular water supply varies from 0-100% with 43% as the figure in Orissa. Sub-centres without electric supply and without all weather motorable approach road varies from 0-75% and 0-70% respectively with figures of 27% sub-centres getting electricity supply in the State of Orissa, as on March 2006. State/UT-wise facilities available at Sub-centres is given in the Statement-I *(See* below). As far Primary Health Centres (PHCs) are concerned, number of PHCs with labour room, with operation theatre, with 4-6 beds and with 24 hours delivery facility also varies'widely with figures of 64%, 33%, 10%, and 09% for the State of Orissa. Number of PHCs without electric supply in the country varies from 0-43% with o% figure for the State of Orissa. Number of PHCs without regular water supply, without all weather motorable approach road, with telephone and with computer varies widely with figures of 0%, 3% and 5% respectively for the State of Orissa, as on March 2006. State/UT-wise facilities available